

North Tyneside Health & Wellbeing Board Report Date: 25 January 2024

**Title: Equally Well
Progress Update:
Maximising the
Capabilities of Children,
Young People and Adults.**

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Relevant Partnership Board: North Tyneside Children and Young People Partnership

1. Equally Well: Progress Update: Maximising the Capabilities of Children, Young People and Adults

This item relates to the Maximising the Capabilities of Children, Young People and Adults theme of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, "Equally Well: A healthier, fairer future for North Tyneside 2021- 2025".

As outlined in 'Equally Well' educational achievement plays a significant role in reducing health inequalities by shaping life opportunities.

Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive, where all can access a high-class education with a culture of inclusion and achievement is a key priority.

Our employment and skills service and many of our VCSE organisations aim to raise aspiration and release the potential of all young people and adults. There are opportunities for life-long learning across the system.

This briefing paper will be supplemented by a presentation at the Board meeting on the strategic system-wide approach to supporting the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing of Children and Young People in North Tyneside.

2. Recommendation(s):

The Board is recommended to: -

- a) Be assured that the North Tyneside Children and Young People Partnership is making progress in delivering the actions for Maximising the Capabilities of Children, Young People and Adults and to reduce health inequalities.
- b) Note the approach and progress being made to support Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- c) Provide any comments on any areas requiring further action; and
- d) Request the North Tyneside Children and Young People Partnership to submit further progress reports to the Board in relation to its implementation plan for next year, the delivery of those actions and their outcomes.

3. Progress update: Maximising the capabilities of children, young people and adults.

North Tyneside has an education system to be proud of and is a strong performer regionally and nationally. However, inequalities in educational outcomes affect physical and mental health, as well as income, employment, and quality of life. Therefore, focusing on supporting our most vulnerable children, young people and adults is crucial to ensure that they reach their full potential.

In addition, partners also have a commitment to increasing access and use of quality lifelong learning opportunities across communities. Without life skills and readiness for work young people and adults will not be able to fulfil their full potential, to flourish and take control over their lives.

The following bullet points outline actions and progress against the implementation plan for 2023/24:

3.1. *Deliver the Safety Value Intervention to provide an inclusive education offer where children and young people with SEND thrive.*

North Tyneside's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Inclusion Strategy 2021-24 sets out key priorities to maximise every opportunity for children with SEND including:

- **Co-production of North Tyneside's Early Years SEND Inclusion Service**
Scheduled for a launch in April 2024, this will provide a single point of access for professionals, and parents and carers to ensure that every child under 5 years of age who has or may have SEND in North Tyneside is known to the Local Authority with a single point of access to targeted services, and that their needs are identified and met in their pre-school years.
- **Graduated Approach:** The SEND partnership is working collaboratively to co-produce our Graduated Approach in North Tyneside. With a strong foundation in research, scheduled to be launched in the Spring of 2024, this will set out the borough's expectations for children and young people with SEND and what they can expect from across education, health care, to meet their needs. We aim to maximise every opportunity for children with SEND to attend their local, mainstream school, where their needs can be met by strengthen what is ordinarily available so that more needs can be identified and met without necessarily needing an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- **Launch of a new SEND Preparation for Adulthood Service:** To strengthen the coordinated review of EHCPs for children and young people 16-25 years of age, there has been a £0.209m recurring investment into a SEND Preparation for Adulthood Team within the SEND Support Service, which was established in September 2023. This team is closely aligned with our Connexions Team and Whole Life Disability Transitions Team, building effective relationships with the wider partnership. The SEND Preparation for Adulthood Team will aim for all young people to have an EHCP which accurately reflects their needs and outcomes, and the provision needed to support them into adulthood.

3.2. *The HIVE Team provides holistic support for Children in Care and Care Leavers, to ensure a difficult start in life is not a barrier to success – the team will be promoting trauma informed practice across services to reduce inequalities.*

- Over the last 18 months the therapeutic offer has expanded, and support from the HIVE team is now available to all children, young people and families living in North Tyneside where there is a history of developmental and relational trauma, following appropriate referral.
- Training has been offered to professionals using Virtual Reality headsets to help them better understand the impact of trauma and how best to support children impacted by their early life experiences.
- An increasing number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young people have been supported by the HIVE team, with an offer 2 days a week to include ESOL lessons, art activities, football sessions. Therapeutic support is offered and supported by translators.
- The Virtual School is setting up a programme called 'Work and Play' for 16–18-year-olds to provide arts and leisure activities to build confidence and increase access to work experience, apprenticeships and further education.
- Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust has recruited two Care Leavers onto apprenticeships in the Trust in the previous year.

3.3. *Increase early help for mental health needs through development of 'The Lookout' to bring together the new Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing pathways to create an offer for Children, Young People & families that is easy to navigate, with a range of access points.*

- Over the last 18 month's the workforce supporting children and young people's mental health in North Tyneside has been strengthened by an additional 50+ posts. This has enabled the early help and prevention model for children's emotional wellbeing to be significantly developed.
- Connect Mental Health Support Teams are working across half of our schools with a further expansion planned in October 2024. Schools can access individual support, have regular consultations with the Teams and

are also given support to develop their Whole School Approach to emotional wellbeing.

- The Early Help Emotional Wellbeing Team has strong links to GPs and CAMHS to provide timely support to children and families within the community.
- The next phase is to develop North Tyneside's model further to join up all existing services, under the umbrella of "The Lookout" which includes; the HIVE Team, CAMHS, and the VSCE Mental Health Alliance to better meet the needs of children and families, in a timely way and at the level they require.

3.4. *An increased focus on neurodiversity will transform support for pupils and families to develop more inclusive communities, reduce inequalities and improve outcomes.*

- A Neurodiversity Transformation Team has been established and funded via the Barnardo's Strategic Alliance to identify ways to improve life at home, school and in the community for neurodivergent children and young people.
- A symposium event was held in November 2023 where priorities for the work programme were agreed with an emphasis on services across our local system working together, clarity over what is already available and supporting schools. A follow-up conference is planned for April 2024 with a showcase of work by neurodivergent children and young people, updates on research from local academics, Virtual Reality headsets and a panel discussion with local schools.

3.5. *Deliver Preparation for Adulthood: an established post-16 SEND work-based learning programme 'Ignite Your Potential'.*

- The Ignite your Potential Programme is now in its fourth year of delivery and has been developed further to ensure the progression of young people participating.
- An additional 6 places (32 in total) were secured for the programme from September 2023 to specifically support young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.
- The Employment and Skills Team is working closely with the People Team to develop and expand work placement opportunities across Council Services and with key external partners.
- The North Tyneside Adult Learning Service's provision for learners with high needs was graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in June 2023 alongside

'Outstanding' gradings for Adult Learning, Leadership and Management and Behaviours and Attitudes.

- The Local Authority has invested in developing a SEND Preparation for Adulthood Team within the SEND Support Service. This team consists of a Senior Special Education and Disability Officer who will lead three Special Education and Disability Officers responsible for the Annual Review of young people's Education Health and Care Plans.

3.6. *A SEND Practice Group has been formed and a SEND Employment Forum will meet for the first time in June 2023 to develop actions going forward.*

- The SEND Employment Forum has now met on two occasions in June and October 2023.
- The group is made up of local partners who can work together in developing and delivering pathways to sustainable employment to ultimately improve the employment outcomes for young people with SEND.
- One of the initial tasks is to identify the training needs that employers based at Cobalt have around SEND and employability and providing an appropriate training offer to meet this need.
- A SEND Provider Directory has been developed, which will be located on the SEND Local Offer on the Council Website.
- The Employment and Skills Service has secured funding to:
 - o Work with key partners including delivery partners and employers to improve the quality and quantity of Supported Internship opportunities available to young people with SEND between 2022 and 2025.
 - o Develop a pilot Supported Internship for young people with additional needs who do not have an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP) between April 2024 and July 2025.

3.7. *Deliver the Cobalt Education to Employment programme to embed careers into the school curriculum – Burnside, Norham and Marden High*

- The pilot programme commenced in September 2022 working with the three schools and businesses located on Cobalt Business Park.
- The pilot ran between September 2022 and July 2023 and included a number of projects aimed at providing additional careers support in schools and embedding careers education into the wider curriculum.
- Resources developed to support delivery of the programme include careers videos involving employees of businesses on the park, employability workbooks for pupils to complete with tasks to develop their employability skills, work experience opportunities on the park, mentoring support and a Careers Safari opportunity.

- The project team have also worked closely with the North East LEP to raise awareness amongst schools and businesses about additional opportunities including the rollout of T-Levels.
- The resources created are now being added to a dedicated website that will assist in the wider rollout of the programme to all North Tyneside schools during 2023-24.
- Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust has attended 11 events at schools and colleges, supporting young people to consider progression into apprenticeships and employment in the NHS through mock interviews and careers fairs.

3.8. Target adult learning at disadvantaged adults with low starting points to offer support and skills development and monitor uptake.

- Programmes continue to be developed to support our most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents to improve their skills and gain or progress into sustainable employment.
- The North Tyneside Adult Learning Service has developed a new employability offer, which includes increased use of digital learning to provide bespoke support for individuals, employability workshops that provide opportunities to develop interview skills and CV writing, work experience opportunities and Get into courses.
- The Get into courses are co-designed with employers to support residents to access specific employment opportunities with a guaranteed interview on completion of the short course. Courses have been developed and delivered during 2023 with Greggs, Tynemouth Castle Inn and Sitel as well as sector focused courses for early years, teaching, social care, construction and hospitality and catering.
- The Local Authority and key partners such as Cedarwood Trust and YMCA North Tyneside has responded to an increase in demand for support with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision and other wrap around support for people resettled from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and Hong Kong.

3.9 Delivery of the digital inclusion strategy includes targeted digital skills provision in line with the inclusive vision of 'nobody left behind' supporting learners to live fuller lives in their communities.

- After a successful pilot during 2021-23, the North Tyneside Adult Learning Service has mainstreamed its delivery of the Digital Outreach Project (DOP).

- DOP provides more personal support working with residents to identify personal needs and goals and delivering tailored workshops and sessions to help build day-to-day digital confidence. DOP sessions are typically delivered to small groups of 3-4 people.
- DOP is free of charge and sessions are delivered at venues across North Tyneside. The sessions cover a range of digital skills including (but not limited to):
 - o Learning how to get the most out of your devices.
 - o Gaining confidence with computer programs commonly used in the workplace.
 - o Accessing the internet safely and avoid online scams.
- The DOP supported 239 learners with Skills Scans, Skills Boosters, Skills Masterclasses and Digital Champions training in 2022-23
- The service is also delivering Microbytes training courses, which are a new series of training courses focused at a more advanced level 2 and help participants to use Microsoft applications through short courses including Word processing in Word, Spreadsheets in Excel and Presentations in PowerPoint.

3.91. Review uptake of lifelong learning opportunities – for adults and older people, especially those accessing digital technology and skills courses.

- All providers are reporting an increase in participation in adult learning skills provision since a significant reduction was experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Providers have adapted to provide more blended learning opportunities with distance learning enabling more tailored and bespoke course provision and learners being able to access courses in their own time and complete at their own pace.
- Data from the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) for the 2021-22 academic year shows that there were 3410 learners participating in adult education in North Tyneside with an achievement rate of 84%.
- 55% of learners enrolled on course at below Level 2 with a further 42% enrolling on Level 2 courses.
- In terms of the profile of learners:
 - o 16% of Adult Education Budget (AEB) learners are aged 19-23.
 - o 19% are aged 50+.
 - o 52% of AEB learners are female.
 - o 25% self-identified as having LLDD and/or a health problem.

- 23% of enrolment opportunities are undertaken by residents with no qualifications, 23% are undertaken by residents with prior attainment at Level 1 or below.
- 71% of enrolment opportunities are undertaken by unemployed residents, 53% are unemployed and actively looking for work.
- In 2022-23, the North Tyneside Adult Learning Service had 2225 enrolments on its courses including:
 - 204 enrolments on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses
 - 350 enrolments for employability training
 - 530 enrolments for English and Maths
- The service supported 75 16-18 learners with English, maths, employability and vocational training.
- Learners accessed specific Get into Courses co-designed with employers. Notable successes include Get into Tynemouth Castle Inn (18 learners into employment), Get into Greggs (14 into employment) and Get into Smulders (18 into employment).
- In total, 679 learners gained employment after accessing courses with the Adult Learning Service in 2022-23.

4. Performance indicators

North Tyneside has 27,345 children and young people on roll in schools in North Tyneside. 24% meet the criteria for Pupil Premium and there are 236 Looked After Children of school age.

4.1. Attendance data

North Tyneside data indicates a better overall absence average of 5.8% than our neighbouring authorities 7.7% and national average 6.6%. However, in line with national data we have had an increase in Overall Absence, Persistent Absence (less than 90% attendance) and Severely Absent (less than 50% attendance) when compared to pre pandemic.

- Children and young people who are registered as Pupil Premium attend less well nationally and locally, although North Tyneside rates are better than national averages. The overall absence rate for PP is 9.6% compared to non PP 5.8%. The Persistent Absent rate is significantly worse, PP 32.4% and non PP 18.7%. The Severely Absent rate difference is also of concern, PP 3.5% and non PP 1.4%

- There is a significant difference in the attendance rates of all the pupils that were in care at the end of the academic year and those that had been in care for 12 months or more (OC2 Cohort). The overall rate of attendance for all of our pupils at the end of the academic year 22-23 was 87% and for the OC2 cohort it was 93%. For primary aged pupils this was 93% for all and 95% for those in care longer term. Secondary aged pupils had an attendance rate of only 83% (all) and 91% for those in care longer term. For the full cohort 23% had an attendance rate of over 98% (32 pupils had 100% attendance) and for the OC2 cohort 34% had an attendance rate of over 98% (10 pupils 100%). 36% of the full cohort were classed as persistently absent and 7% severely PA (below 50%) compared to the OC2 cohort with 21% PA and 2% SPA. This demonstrates clearly the positive impact being in care and experiencing stability can have on pupil attendance.
- Permanent Exclusions have increased significantly in North Tyneside from 32 young people 2021/22 to 98 young people 2022/23. Nationally figures for Permanent Exclusion have risen significantly, North Tyneside figures are slightly more than national average.
- No Looked After Children were Permanently Excluded from North Tyneside schools.

4.2. Attainment – Summer 2023 data exceeds North East averages and were in line or above national average at all key stages.

Pupil Premium children and young people did not perform as well as their peers with the attainment gap widening at KS4.

KS1 results have not yet returned to pre pandemic averages 57% of pupils met expected standards in Reading Writing and Maths, slightly higher than national average. Pupil Premium pupils had significantly lower scores at KS1 38% than their peers 65%.

KS2 results were slightly above national averages, however, remain lower than pre pandemic. All pupils average score Reading, Writing and Maths 61%. Pupil Premium pupils achieved at a significantly lower level 45% met Expected standards compared to 68% of their peers.

KS4 the North Tyneside GCSE Attainment 8 (average score) was 46.7, in line with national average 46.5. The Progress 8 for North Tyneside -0.09 score is slightly lower than national -0.02. Pupil Premium Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores were in line with national averages. Pupil Premium Young people do not perform as well as their peers.

KS5 those young people attending Post 16 in schools in North Tyneside achieved results slightly higher than national average at A Level, Vocational subjects were high than national average.

At KS2 Children in Care performed at a higher level than national average. There were 39 young people in Care in Year 11 last year. Of those that did complete GCSEs we saw some really positive results. 3 pupils achieved both Maths and English at Grade 5 and above and a further 11 gained both Maths and English at Grade 4. This means that of those sitting GCSEs 48% achieved both Maths and English and will not need to resit them at college. This is the highest we have ever had, in a year where marking returned to pre-covid standards.

5. Community engagement

The Children and Young Person's Partnership regularly engage to seek the young person's voice via a range of mechanisms including Elected Young Mayor, Elected Member of UK Youth Parliament, Youth Council, Children in Care Council, Children's Council and other committees such as North Tyneside SEND Youth Forum. These forums give children and young people the opportunity to tell the council and its partners about what life is like growing up and going to school in North Tyneside.

6. Contact officers:

Lisa Cook, Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion, North Tyneside Council
Mark Barrett, Senior Manager, Employment and Skills, North Tyneside Council

9. Background information:

The following background documents have been used in the compilation of this report and are available from the author:-

[**Ambition for Education in North Tyneside 2020 - 2024**](#)

COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

10 Finance and other resources

Any financial implications arising from the delivery of the implementation plan to delivery Equally Well, North Tyneside's Health and Well Being Strategy will be met from existing budgets.

11 Legal

The Board has a duty under Section 195 of the Health & Social Care Act 2012 to encourage partners to work closely together and in an integrated manner for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in the area.

13 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

14 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

15 Risk management

There is a risk that despite the considerable effort for joint action by the Health and Wellbeing Board, partners may not improve the inequalities in health seen in North Tyneside.

The health inequalities that existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic have subsequently been amplified and more recently it is also widely acknowledged that the current rise in the cost of living is likely to have a disproportionate impact on some of our communities in North Tyneside.

A corporate risk has been identified for this scenario with a mitigation report was presented at the Audit Committee in November 2022, and this risk will continue to be monitored with regular reporting.

16 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.